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ALSAGER

Urban District Council.

Medical Officer's

Annual Report

For Year ending 31st Dec., 1913.

ALSAGER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for Year ending Dec. 31st, 1913.

1912.		1913.	
Houses occupied	... 659	Houses occupied	... 660
„ empty	... 11	„ empty	... 10
Total ... 670		Total ... 670	
New Houses	... 6.	New Houses	... 3.
Estimated Population (Census 1911).	... ..		2743.

Registered Deaths

45.

Death Rate 16.45 per 1,000 inhabitants.

1911	„	„	14.58	„	„
1912	„	„	10.57	„	„

Ages at Death.

Under 1 year—7. 1 to 5—2. 5 to 15—0. 15 to 25—3.
25 to 45—5. 45 to 65—13. 65 upwards—15. Total 45.

Causes of Death.

Cerebral Hemorrhage and Embolism 6. Old Age 4.
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) 3. Tuberculosis (Other) 1. Heart
Disease 4. Renal Disease 3. Malignant Disease 2. Pulmonary
Disease (Non-Tubercular) 7. Other Diseases 13. Accident 1.
Suicide 1. Total 45.

Infant Mortality.

Deaths under 1 year—7.

Infant Death Rate 132.075 per 1,000 births.

1910—103.44. 1911—75.47. 1912—21.27.

Causes of and Ages at Death.

Collapse of Lung (Congenital) lived 1 day. Debility from
Birth (Born and died at Arclid) 9 days. Premature Birth and
Inanition 11 days. Gastro Enteritis 11 days. Enteritis and
Convulsions 12 days. Gastro Enteritis and Convulsions 11
weeks. Whooping Cough and Broncho-Pneumonia 8 months.

Deaths outside the District.

At Arclid Workhouse (2) ages 66 years and 9 days.

At County Lunatic Asylum (1) aged 45 years.

At North Stafford Infirmary (1) aged 57 years.

Notifications of Births.

Boys 30. Girls 23. Total 53.

Birth Rate 19'32 per 1,000 inhabitants.

1910—20'11. ... 1911—19'32. ... 1912—17'11.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases.

Scarlet Fever, 2 Cases.

Ages 6 years and 17 years.

Both were removed to Isolation Hospital.

Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) 7 Cases

4 Females. 3 Males.

Ages, 24, 25, 28, 30, 33, 38 and 39 years.

One Case was treated at the Royal National Sanatorium, Bournemouth; others treated at home.

Non-Pulmonary 3 Cases

2 Males. 1 Female.

1 Peritonitis, (Operated on at North Stafford Infirmary), 5 yrs.

1 Cervical Glands, 10 yrs. 1 Periostitis, 26 yrs.

Ages, 5 years, 10 years and 26 years.

Health of the District.

During the quarter ending March 31st, One case of Scarlet Fever was notified. There were numerous cases of Influenza of a mild type, and Bronchitis was fairly prevalent. The Influenza increased towards the middle of April, but died out in May. One case of Scarlet Fever was notified in April. There were a few cases of Measles and Mumps reported by the School Teachers in June and July, but they were of a very mild type. From then the health of the district continued good until towards the end of October, when a few cases of Whooping Cough appeared. These increased in November, and in December the disease attacked many children in the Infant School. This epidemic was spreading when the School closed for the Xmas holidays.

To combat this epidemic I gave the Schoolmistress instructions to send from School those who whooped, were sick, or suffered from spasmodic cough suspicious of whooping cough. With the exception of this epidemic, the juvenile population has been healthy, and the adult population has been as healthy as usual.

Alsager and Linley Water Supply.

This is from the same source as last year.

ANALYSES.

On April 2nd, samples of Water were taken from Well No. 2 and tube, and sent to the County Analyst. Report received was similar to others, i.e., "An exceedingly pure, although very hard sample of water."

New Water Supply.

Since my last report, the Engineer engaged by the Alsager Urban District Council has prepared the necessary plans and estimates, &c., for the whole scheme.

On June 19th, a L. G. B. enquiry was held in the Council Room, the object being the negotiation by the A. U. D. Council for the loan of money for works of water supply, including construction of a Reservoir capable of holding over 100,000 gallons, on the land adjoining the road between the Oak Farm, Alsager, and Mere Lake, Talk. The granting of this loan amounting to £7,566 has been sanctioned.

Boring in No. 2 Borehole has reached the depth of about 150 ft.

The Contracts for supplying and laying of mains, and the necessary machinery have been given out

ANALYSIS.

Another sample of Water from No. 1 boring in the new Well was taken and sent for analysis in July.

The report was similar to the first, i.e., "This is a first-class water, of a high degree of purity, and fit for domestic use." This water is also softer than the present local supply.

Sewage Disposal.

Considerable difficulty has been met with in this, owing to the erection of the New Works on the existing site. The land has been utilised as far as possible, and when ready, the Detritus Tanks and Screening Chambers were put into operation, and settling was carried on temporarily in the storm tanks, before the Sewage was discharged on to the land, which will be eventually used as the storm water area.

The new Sewage Disposal Works are nearing completion, and will probably be opened in Jan., 1914.

Sewers.

These have been well looked after. New Sewers have been laid to meet the requirements of the Linley district. An extension has been made in the Lawton Road Sewer.

Main Roads.

The A. U. D. Council roads have been kept in good repair. Calcium Chloride has been put on to abate the dust in spring and summer. After delay, the County Council has laid tarred slag on the footpaths and roads under their supervision, i.e., Lawton Road to beyond the Fields Road, and Crewe Road from beyond St. Mary's Church to Church Road, on the North side.

Closets.

These have been emptied regularly. The brick closets are being regularly replaced by earthenware pans. These and water closets alone are sanctioned by the Council.

Scavenging.

This is (as last reported), carried out by C. H. Bennion, Lawton Road, Alsager, by contract.

Approximate number of the following in the district

	How frequently Scavenged
Midden Privies 315 about. ...	Fortnightly or as required.
Dry Ashpits .. 30 ,, ...	As required.
Pail Closets .. 22 ,, ...	Weekly.
Dustbins .. 630 ,, ...	Weekly.
Cesspools ... 30 ,, ...	As required.

This has been done thoroughly. Ashes and other refuse are collected from the dwelling houses in boxes, which are emptied into carts and removed every week.

Slaughter Houses. Bakeries, Milk Shops, &c.

Slaughter Houses 3. As reported last year, these have been kept under constant supervision, but such private premises do not lend themselves to much improvement. I believe the owners do their best to keep them sanitary, but I can only describe them as unsatisfactory. Flies which swarm over such places in hot weather, have to a certain extent been kept in abeyance by sprinkling refuse heaps, &c., with anti-septics. Offal is kept in iron bins, fitted with close fitting covers, and their contents are removed from the premises as soon as possible.

The Bakeries, Milk Shops, &c., have been regularly inspected, and comply with the regulations as far as possible. I have not had any complaints.

Isolation Hospital.

This is situated at West Heath, near Congleton. I am very glad to be able to report that we have escaped serious epidemics, and consequently have not required its useful services.

Schools.

These have been well looked after during the year. Their sanitary condition is good. They are supplied with the town's water. The playgrounds are well kept. I have found the teachers very reliable in following out instructions as to the combating of contagious diseases and epidemics. They have regularly notified all such cases to me as far as it was possible for them to do so. The County School Inspector visits periodically.

Public Health Acts.

Part 3. Sections 39-42 are in force in the district.

Notification of Births.

Not in force owing to low Infant Mortality.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act 1889.

Acute Polyomyelitis, Cerebro Spinal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Tuberculosis, (Pulmonary or otherwise), are in force in the district. The last mentioned came in force on Feb. 1st.

Prevention of Consumption.

The premises are inspected as to their sanitary condition. They are disinfected when vacated, or after death of the consumptive. The inmates are supplied with any necessary antiseptics. Printed instructions are distributed. Their spitting cups, &c., are looked after.

The Council bears the expense of any Bacteriological examination for the detection of Tubercle, and also for other Notifiable contagious diseases.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied also by the Council, for treatment of, and as a preventative to this disease.

Tuberculosis.

Provision of shelters for Tuberculous patients. In Oct., I received a letter from the County Medical Officer of Health asking if I would raise any objection to the erection of small shelters in yards or gardens, if no detriment to health would be occasioned to the occupants of the patients' dwellings or to those of the adjacent dwellings; also if the Council would undertake to provide shelters, or alternatively if they would store shelters provided by the County Council or County Insurance Committee.

I reported to the U. D. C. that I had replied in the affirmative to the first question, and that the other should be decided by the Council.

The Council declined to provide shelters, but would be willing to provide storage facilities for shelters provided by the County Council or County Insurance Committee.

We have not yet had any shelters supplied.

Housing and Towns' Planning Act.

The Committee deputed to work this Act have visited and inspected the houses in the district, and given instructions for action to be taken when necessary.

Number of New Houses built during 1913, 3. Number of dwelling houses inspected, 17. Number of houses considered unfit for habitation, 3. Number of closing orders made by Local Authority, 3. Number of houses where defects were remedied without closing orders being made, 5. Number of houses where defects were remedied after closing orders made, 1. Estimated number of houses within limits of rent in S. 14, of Act 1909, 350. Back to back houses, 0. Cellar dwellings, 0.

Town Planning.

There has been no such scheme.

Milk and Food Supply.

I have had no complaints of either.

Milk Supply.

Number of Registered Premises				1913
at close of 1913				Number Inspected
Dairies	...	...	4.	4.
Cowsheds	...	.	27.	27.
Milkshops	...	...	0.	0.

There have been no notices served for non-compliance with regulations, and no legal actions necessary.

Premises selling perishable goods and foods are periodically visited and inspected.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

I have had no complaints.

Notification of Births Act.

Owing to the low Birth Rate, I have pointed out to the A. U. D. C., that it is unnecessary to adopt this Act.

This is not in force in the district.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

There is a possibility of the effluent from the present Sewage works contaminating the stream into which it flows, but everything is being done to combat it, and the new Sewage works when open will soon prevent anything of the kind occurring.

Every effort is being made to diminish the contamination of other streams flowing through the district. These come under the Staffordshire and Cheshire County Councils.

Midwives Act.

Number of Midwives, 3. Their Registers are regularly and well kept.

One cannot write; her register is kept by her daughter. She does not take any cases unless a Medical man is engaged and present when required. She nurses only. The others take temperatures and pulse regularly.

The Sanitary Authority is averse to any Midwife laying out or assisting in laying out dead bodies, and the practice has been discontinued.

Neither of them has been reported to the supervising Authority.

No case of Puerperal Fever or other infectious or contagious diseases have arisen in cases attended by the Midwives.

I have inspected their bags and found them clean and supplied with the necessary appliances and antiseptics. Their houses are all clean and sanitary.

These women are thoroughly reliable, very particular and clean in their dress, and take no risks in conducting their cases. They may be relied on to send for Medical assistance immediately, should necessity arise.

Factories and Workshops, &c.,

These places have been visited and found sanitary, and to conform to the regulations.

LIST OF WORKERS.

Builders	...	Employers and employed	...	18
Painters & Plumbers		"	...	21
Bakers	...	"	...	8
Wagon Repairers		"	...	35
Engravers	...	"	...	2
Bottlers	...	"	..	7
Cabinet Makers		"	...	5
Blacksmiths	..	"	...	10
Jewellers	...	"	...	1
Hairdressers	...	"	...	3
Printers	...	"	...	3
Cab Drivers	...	"	...	5
Saddlers	...	"	...	2
Cycle & Motor Repairers		"	...	11
Confectioners	...	"	...	3
Total				134

Home Workers.	Miscellaneous	...	134
Boot Makers 9	Home Workers	...	49
Milliners 30			---
Tailors 10			Total 183
Total 49			

H. F. KINGSTON, B.A., M.B.,

Jan. 13th, 1914.

Medical Officer of Health.